

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02317 01 OF 02 161939Z  
ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 W  
-----049761 161946Z /41  
P 161739Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7961

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 02317

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OGEN  
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

1. FOR LEN WILLEMS: RECENTLY WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING G-1 AUTHORIZATION CABLES FOR SOVIET PRINCIPALS WITHOUT SPECIFIC INCLUSION OF DEPENDENT WIVES (E.G. STATE 037953, 037958, 037957). COULD YOU TACTFULLY BRING THIS TO VO'S ATTENTION WITH A VIEW TO CORRECTING THE PRACTICE? WE HAVE BEEN ISSUING TO ENTIRE FAMILY IN SUCH CASES, BUT ARE AFRAID THAT THIS MAY SOME DAY CAUSE A CROPPER.

2. OUR APPEALS FOR PROMPT ACTION ON THE HAMILTON-WEISZ-CINDY SMITH MOVES SEEM TO HAVE FALLEN THROUGH THE MEMORY HOLE. WE ARE HURTING. WE PUT TOGETHER IN TWO DAYS OF KURSCH'S DEPARTURE A VIABLE PACKAGE WHICH SUITED EVERYONE AND HAVE NOW WAITED THREE WEEKS WITH NO REPLY, WHEN ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS FORMAL APPROVAL. CAN'T SOMEONE DO SOMETHING?

3. JACK GOSNELL HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THE ICCUSSA JOB NOW HELD BY OBER, ASSUMING THE POSTING TO EAST BERLIN DOES NOT COME THROUGH. I TOLD JACK THAT I  
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WOULD RELAY WORD OF HIS INTEREST, BUT POINTED OUT THAT IT SEEMS TO BE A POSITION DESIGNED FOR A MORE SENIOR OFFICER. HAVING DEALT ENERGETICALLY WITH THE BILATERALS FOR THREE YEARS HERE, JACK HAS SOME OBVIOUS ASSETS FOR THE JOB, BUT MY PRESUMPTION IS THAT YOU WILL BE LOOKING FOR A MORE SENIOR OFFICER. APPRECIATE ANY FEEDBACK YOU CAN PROVIDE ON PROSPECTS FOR JACK - IN EAST BERLIN OR OTHERWISE.

WHAT POSITIONS WILL BE COMING OPEN TO WHICH HE CAN  
REALISTICALLY ASPIRE?

4. FOR WILKINSON FROM TRACY. THE EMBASSY CAN REPEAT  
CAN ABSORB THE 1977 HOLIDAY ON ICE RUBLES WITHOUT  
DIFFICULTY, IF THE DEPARTMENT WILL PERMIT US TO USE THEM  
AS WE NEED THEM AND SEND A CHECK FOR EACH PURCHASE TO  
BURKE. OUR PROBLEM AT THIS END IS COMPLYING WITH THE  
DEPT'S INSTRUCTION TO USE A NON-CONVERTIBLE EMBASSY  
ACCOUNT IN A SOVIET BANK. WE DO NOT THINK THE SOVIETS  
WILL AGREE TO REOPEN SUCH AN ACCOUNT, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE  
WRITTEN A THIRD LETTER (ALL WITHOUT RESPONSES). WE  
DO NOT THINK ESCALATING THIS TO THE POLITICAL LEVEL WILL  
HELP. THE SOVIETS TEND TO BE VERY TOUCHY ON CURRENCY  
MATTERS. IN SUM, WE CAN HANDLE THE 1977 RUBLES WITH NO  
DIFFICULTIES, IF THE DEPT. WILL LET US BY-PASS THE  
LOCAL ACCOUNT. THE 1978 RUBLES ARE A MORE COMPLEX  
PROBLEM. IT WILL TAKE US UNTIL THE FALL TO USE UP ALL  
1977 RUBLES. BEFORE THEY ARE DISBURSED THERE WILL BE AN  
UNKNOWN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF 1978 RUBLES. WITHOUT A  
BANK ACCOUNT, IT SEEMS UNWISE AND CONTRARY TO OUR  
REGULATIONS FOR THE EMBASSY TO CONTINUE TO STORE SUCH  
LARGE AMOUNTS OF CASH IN ITS SAFES. ASSUMING WE WILL  
RECEIVE ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF RUBLES IN 1978 THAT WE  
GOT IN 1977, IT WILL TAKE US UNTIL THE SPRING OF 1979 TO  
USE THEM. THIS SITUATION COULD WELL AFFECT OTHER  
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PROGRAMS. WE AGREE, THEREFORE, THAT A REASONABLE  
SOLUTION WOULD BE TO CONVERT THE 1977 RUBLES, BUT TO TELL  
HOLIDAY ON ICE THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DO THE SAME  
WITH THE 1978 RUBLES.

5. TO LEN WILLEMS: RE UNCLASSIFIED PORTION OF OUR  
CONSULAR PACKAGE (MOSCOW A-43): WE POUCHED YELLOW  
AIRGRAM MAT TO DEPT. ON FEBRUARY 13 AND SAME DAY SENT  
ADVANCE COPIES TO SOV AND M/MO. WE HAD INTENDED, OF  
COURSE, TO SEND COPY ALSO TO CA, THE PRINCIPAL END USER,  
BUT INADVERTENTLY SENT IT TO SCA/PPT INSTEAD. COULD YOU  
XEROX YOUR COPY AND TACTFULLY SLIP IT TO CA? THE DUE  
DATE IS FEBRUARY 20, AND BARBARA WATSON BECOMES UPSET IF  
THE PACKAGE DOESN'T ARRIVE ON TIME. AS YOU ARE AWARE,  
IT USUALLY TAKES SEVERAL WEEKS FOR THE "OFFICIAL" COPY  
OF AIRGRAMS TO REACH ADDRESSEES.

6. WITH RESPECT TO ISA'S QUERY ABOUT A SOVIET  
SPECIALIST (STATE 39528), TED MCNAMARA IS THE MOST  
QUALIFIED OF THE OFFICERS PRESENTLY ASSIGNED HERE AND  
UP FOR REASSIGNMENT THIS SUMMER. AS YOU KNOW, TED IS  
OFF ON A TDY TRIP FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. WE'LL CHECK WITH

HIM WHEN HE RETURNS.

7. WE ARE SURPRISED BY THE TONE, IF NOT THE CONTENT, OF  
RAMUNDO LETTER TO AYKAZYAN CONCERNING ICE-TRANSITING  
(STATE 035883). GREENBERG MADE POINTS CONTAINED IN IT  
ORALLY IN HIS FEBRUARY 15 MEETING WITH AYKAZYAN. THIS  
IS BEING REPORTED BY OPEN CABLE WITH OUR SUGGESTED

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02317 02 OF 02 180828Z  
ACTION EUR-12

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P 161739Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 02317

REWORDING OF RAMUNDO LETTER. WE BELIEVE THAT RAMUNDO'S  
BARBED COMMENTS ABOUT SCST SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE,  
AND MAY REFLECT A PERSONAL PIQUE OVER THE SPERRY-  
UNIVAC AFFAIR. WE SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT ATTEMPT  
TO COOL DOWN RAMUNDO AND ENCOURAGE HIM TO THINK IN MORE  
CONSTRUCTIVE TERMS. HE MAY BE BURNING HIS BRIDGES TOO  
SOON. IF THE TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT SHOULD NOT BE  
RENEWED, CONSIDERATION MUST BE GIVEN TO SALVAGING SOME  
VALUABLE COOPERATIVE PROJECTS, SUCH AS THOSE IN THE  
RAILROAD AND CIVIL AVIATION AREAS. THE ONLY AEGIS  
POSSIBLE IS THE S&T AGREEMENT, SO RAMUNDO MAY STILL HAVE  
TO LIVE WITH SCST. WE WILL SHORTLY PROVIDE OUR ASSESSMENT  
OF THE TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE RENEWAL  
QUESTION. MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

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